Sup

the sole, said support legs integrally molded with the convex arch and extending on opposite sides of the wearer's foot and bearing against the sole, and wherein the only portion of said metatarsal guard which transmits the load to the sole is the single concave right support leg and the single concave left support leg.

Remarks

Claims 4 through 6 are pending in the application.

Independent claim has been amended to overcome the cited art by reciting that the only portion of the metatarsal guard which transmits the load to the sole is the single concave right support leg and the single concave left support leg.

It is believed the application is now in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Dated: January 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. Footwear comprising a sole, a toe cap, and an upper having a unitary one piece molded metatarsal guard therein for transmitting a load to the sole, said metatarsal guard comprising a convex arch portion over the wearer's instep; a lip integrally molded with said arch portion and overlying the toe cap; and only a single concave right support leg and only a single concave left support leg overlying the sole, said support legs integrally molded with the convex arch and extending on opposite sides of the wearer's foot and bearing against the sole, and wherein the only portion of said metatarsal guard which transmits the load to the sole is the single concave right support leg and the single concave left support leg.